

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TUNIS 02203 151657Z

53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /157 W

----- 073756

R 151610T APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5148

S E C R E T TUNIS 2203

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BBAK, TS

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL ASSESSMENT OF
REPUTATION OF COASTAL STATES

1. MINISTER OF ECONOMY AYARI INFORMS ME THAT TUNISIANS HAVE ALMOST DECIDED FOR SECOND REFINERY AT GABES. TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DEALING WITH COASTAL STATES IN CONNECTION WITH SALE OF CRUDE OIL AND HAS BEEN SATISFIED WITH ITS RELATIONSHIP. HOWEVER, AYARI RECENTLY SAW NEWSPAPER REPORT ALLEGING SEC INVESTIGATION OF COASTAL STATES. HE HAD QUERIED COASTAL STATES REPRESENTATIVE, WHO CLAIMED INVESTIGATION "PURELY POLITICAL."

2. AYARI SAID THAT GOT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FROM USG RE RELIABILITY COASTAL STATES IN VIEW OF SEC INVESTIGATION. GOT NOT LOOKING FOR PUB-

LISHED FINANCIAL DATA WHICH IS POSSESSES (AND WHICH DEPT. PROVIDED PURSUANT TO GOT REQUEST, STATE 244974). INSTEAD AYARI WANTS OUR BEST JUDGMENT RE RELIABILITY OF THIS FIRM.

3. SINCE IT LOOKS AS IF AN AMERICAN FIRM MAY BE ON THE
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INSIDE TRACK TO OBTAIN REFINERY CONTRACT, WOULD APPRE-
CIATE DEPT'S QUICK RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST.
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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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